

Sinowatz indicted

VIENNA (R) — Former Austrian Chancellor Fred Sinowatz and two other former ministers have been charged with complicity in illegal arms sales to Tehran during the Iran-Iraq war, the APA news agency said Sunday. APA quoted Justice Minister Egmont Forger as saying Sinowatz, former Interior Minister Karl Blecha and former Foreign Minister Leopold Gratz were charged with illegally allowing arms sales to a country at war but had so far not been accused of violating Austria's neutrality laws.

(See earlier story on page 5)

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الراية

Iraq lashes out at Thatcher

NICOSIA (R) — Iraq lashed out at British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Sunday, branding her a "Grey-haired old woman" whose Gulf crisis policy reflected her political selfishness and colonial mentality. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) carried the scathing attack after Thatcher, in a television interview broadcast on Sunday, described Iraqi President Saddam Hussein as a brutal dictator who would be tried for war crimes. INA's international affairs commentator said the prime minister was not happy with Saddam's decision to free foreign women and children because it had cost her "propaganda material for use in her electoral campaign." This fever that has struck the grey-haired old woman Thatcher after President Saddam Hussein's initiative... made her lose her psychological balance. He added that Thatcher's "barking" in the Gulf crisis would not gain her support.

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Iraq cuts short journalists' visits

LONDON (R) — Iraq is limiting the stay of visiting foreign journalists to four to five days to make room for hundreds of others queuing to visit Baghdad, Iraq's Information Director Najji Al Hadithi said Sunday. Hadithi, speaking on the telephone from Baghdad, was commenting on a French television report that Iraq was expelling foreign correspondents. He said that about 200 foreign journalists were in Baghdad and Iraq was only limiting the time they could stay so that they could issue visas to others. Hundreds of others were waiting to come, he added. Foreign reporters in Baghdad, also contacted by phone, confirmed that their stay had been limited to five days.

Shevardnadze in North Korea

TOKYO (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived in North Korea Sunday for talks which diplomats said would cover tension on the Korean peninsula. North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Young Nam greeted Shevardnadze at Pyongyang airport, the Korea Central News Agency said in a dispatch monitored in Tokyo. Shevardnadze arrived from Harbin in northeastern China where he held talks with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen on the Gulf crisis.

Britain considering Iraq air blockade

LONDON (R) — Britain is considering the feasibility of imposing an air blockade on Iraq, Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said in a radio interview Sunday. "We are looking at this. We are looking at the countries over whose territory such aircraft would have to fly," he told British Broadcasting Corporation radio from Oman during a tour of Gulf states. "It is not a major problem at the moment. One of the calculations is that (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein will run out of money to pay for such air shipments because the oil trade would be blocked. It may have to be instituted. We are considering it in London and elsewhere how one would set about that."

'ASEAN may be willing to mediate'

MANILA (R) — Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said Sunday that the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) may be willing to mediate in the Gulf crisis but Iraq did not appear to be interested in the offer. Manglapus was speaking at a news conference after holding talks in Baghdad with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz about the crisis prompted by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait Aug. 2. "I told him of the interests of the Philippines to engage in peaceful solutions and mentioned that ASEAN has experience in this because of the Cambodian conflict. The Philippines is ready to do it alone or in partnership with ASEAN," Manglapus said. He said Aziz did not say if he was interested in taking up the offer and gave no further details of the proposal. ASEAN groups Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Singapore and the Philippines.

U.S. casualties in Gulf war seen as 20,000 or more

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States could lose 20,000 to 30,000 dead or wounded troops in a full-scale war with Iraq, U.S. News and World Report magazine said in its current edition. The magazine said the casualty estimates came from the joint chiefs of staff and the National Security Council. The size of the casualty estimate convinced President George Bush to seek a diplomatic solution to the Gulf crisis for now, the magazine said. But it said that if diplomacy did not work within another month, Bush might revise his military options.

U.N. chief keeps door open for diplomacy

By Ghadeer Taber
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar left Amman Sunday saying he was disappointed with the outcome of his talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz but he left the door open for further diplomatic efforts to solve the Gulf crisis.

"As I leave Amman, I must acknowledge a certain disappointment because I had hoped for more in my discussions with Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz," he said at the end of two days of intensive discussions aimed at finding a political solution to the Iraqi-Kuwaiti conflict.

"I would have liked to inform the (Security) Council that real progress was made during the discussion here in Amman but, in all honesty, I cannot do so at present, nor can I anticipate the council's reaction," he told a press conference at the Royal Palace.

He said he had expected but had not received a "clear-cut determination" from Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. But the secretary general said his disappointment would not deter him from continuing his diplomatic efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the crisis. "I am prepared to continue my efforts together with (Aziz) to obtain a just and lasting solution to the problem," he said.

The Iraqi foreign minister before leaving Amman Saturday said he remained at the secretary general's disposal and Perez de Cuellar reciprocated the offer Sunday.

"In the past two days, I have listened very carefully to all that

the minister has said regarding Iraq's political and humanitarian concerns," Perez de Cuellar said. "I shall certainly convey these to the Security Council upon my return to New York," he added.

Senior Jordanian officials close to the talks in their status as observers spoke of a "glimmer of hope" which Perez de Cuellar took with him and also left behind after his discussions with Aziz.

Aziz, in his statement Saturday, also kept the door open for negotiations. He said that the only solution was an "Arab solution" but "this does not mean that the international community is not involved or interested... (it) does not mean the United Nations has no role..."

The foreign minister said Perez de Cuellar "must be with us, with his wisdom, time, help and encouragement" to help reach a solution to the crisis.

The Jordanian officials based their optimism on the fact that the U.N.-Iraq meetings took place at all, that they were held in Amman, and that the secretary general will be meeting His Majesty King Hussein, which provides another opportunity for continued dialogue.

The secretary general said earlier that he was looking forward to his meeting with the King in Paris so the King could help his efforts.

The officials said the fact that the Amman meeting took place at all and that they were thorough was an indication that there was hope of continued dialogue and maybe even positive results through quiet diplomacy. The venue of the meeting also indicated that both sides believed in

the method and credibility of Iraqi political and humanitarian concerns, which basically aims at reducing the chances of war and at descaling tension prior to substantive negotiations that can lead to a political solution.

Perez de Cuellar pinned some hope for a political solution on the Sept. 9 meeting between U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. One of the items they will discuss is the Middle East situation. Let us hope their meeting will lead to a solution," he said.

The secretary general said that in his talks with Aziz he had not heard any indication of what is the "final decision of the Iraqi government on the question of their presence in Kuwait."

But he said that an earlier statement issued by President Saddam Hussein on the future of Kuwait had given him "some hope that the Iraqi government is prepared to reconsider the position as far as their presence in Kuwait is concerned." Saddam said in a letter dated Aug. 19 that the future of Kuwait should be decided by the Arabs.

The secretary general said that Iraq had not made any political concessions during the discussions. "On the political side, I have heard nothing except that they have decided never to be the first to initiate now a military operation," the U.N. chief said. "On the humanitarian aspect of the problem you know what they (the Iraqi government) have done, which I consider important but not sufficient." He was referring to Baghdad's decision to

(Continued on page 5)



LEST WE FORGET: Women and children Sunday stage a demonstration in Amman on the eve of the 999th day of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories (see page 3). An official statistical bulletin issued by the Palestine Information Centre in Amman said Sunday that seven Palestinians were killed by Israeli troops in the occupied territories and 1,183 Palestinians were injured in confrontation with Israeli forces in August. The statement

said that 28 Palestinian women suffered miscarriages due to inhaling gases; 769 were detained or arrested and Israeli military courts passed sentences against 341 Palestinians including 28 children under 15 years of age. In addition it said Israeli authorities demolished 33 Arab homes, dismissed 20 teachers from schools and uprooted 30 fruit trees. Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan

PLO lambasts Egypt

AMMAN (I.T.) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Sunday condemned what it described as the unjust Egyptian media campaign against the Palestinian people and its legitimate struggle and said the PLO held Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak fully responsible for the campaign.

In a statement issued Sunday at the end of two days of meetings in Tunis, the Palestinian leadership said it viewed the continuation of the "frenzied Egyptian campaign against the Palestinians as premeditated and intentional and initiated at the highest Egyptian levels."

The statement, a copy of which was telexed to the Jordan Times, said that the "official Egyptian media are launching unjust, fierce and intentional media campaigns against the Palestinian people at a time when the whole Arab Nation has to exercise extreme care and shoulder pan-Arab responsibilities."

"These daily campaigns are paramount to instigation against the Palestinian people, and holding them responsible for the Gulf crisis and for whatever events that took place in the region, starting with acts of aggression and ending with participation in the military operations," the statement said.

"A group of mean Egyptian journalists who do not pay any respect for any sanctity or live up to their responsibility are now pursuing their lies, reversing facts and spreading their poisonous rumours about the Palestinian people and their leadership."

"In its genuine desire and interest to safeguard the unity of the Arab fold and out of its pan-Arab responsibility to find a way out of the current serious situation, which threatens the very existence of our Arab Nation, the PLO has kept silent for a long time, but it cannot do so any longer, given this criminal Egyptian campaign, which coincides and complies with the poisons puffed by the Israeli and some foreign media, which have had their worst reflections on the security and existence of the Palestinian people."

Regent meets top U.N. officials

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday reviewed with United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar political efforts made to find a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis.

At a meeting attended by the U.N. secretary general's aides and United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator (UNDRO) Mohammad Al Assafi, Prince Hassan reviewed with Perez de

Cuellar issues pertaining to Jordan's request for finding solutions to the economic problems resulting from Jordan's compliance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 661.

Perez de Cuellar thanked Prince Hassan for the warm welcome and hospitality accorded to him and the delegation accompanying him during their stay in Jordan to meet with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

Assafi the international efforts to provide relief services to the thousands of evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait.

Prince Hassan stressed the need for a speedy solution to the evacuees' problem. Prince Hassan said international organizations and the countries to which those evacuees belong should do their best to meet the evacuees' basic needs and to ensure their quick repatriation.

Gulf conflict would damage East-West relations — Pravda

MOSCOW (Agencies) — East-West relations would be one of the casualties of any armed conflict between the United States and Iraq, the Soviet Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Sunday.

A Pravda commentary, written before Saturday night's announcement of a snap Soviet-U.S. summit, said there were still grounds to hope for a political solution to avert catastrophe.

"However, I would rate the chances at only 50-50," commentator Gennady Vasiliev wrote. "Not only would people fall victim to such action, not only the oil refineries, but something that at first place may seem less tangible, but is in fact very important — the process, still only in its early stages, of humanising relations between East and West."

At their Helsinki summit next

Sunday, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev is expected to press U.S. President George Bush to refrain from direct military action against Iraq, a country only 200 kilometres from the Soviet Union's southern frontier.

Moscow, which had sent billions of dollars worth of arms and thousands of military advisers to build up Iraq's million-strong

(Continued on page 4)

Syria poised to hit Aoun

BEIRUT (R) — Syria and its Lebanese allies are preparing to topple defiant General Michel Aoun this month while his ally Iraq is embroiled in the Gulf crisis, officials and political sources said Sunday.

"If Aoun is not ousted and we do not start spreading the authority of the Lebanese government over the country by the end of September, we will face a major downfall," Defence Minister Albert Mansour said in an interview published Sunday.

Political sources said the decision to force Aoun to step down was taken at a meeting last week between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, who has some 40,000 troops in Lebanon, and his ally Lebanese President Elias Hrawi.

Aoun, who leads 15,000 mainly Christian troops, is holding out at the presidential palace in the Christian enclave. He refuses to recognise Hrawi and rejects a peace accord brokered by the Arab League to end 15 years of civil war.

Aoun commands the sympathy of a hardcore of devoted young supporters among Lebanon's minority Maronite Christians but much of his energy has been sapped by months of fighting with rival Christians within the enclave.

With Iraq busy in the Gulf, the stubborn general who used to lead the whole of Lebanon's army has also been left with no foreign friends.

(Continued on page 5)

Habash in Iraq, but no plan to move base to Baghdad

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader George Habash was received by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in Baghdad Sunday but Habash's first visit to the Iraqi capital in 14 years does not signal any transfer of his base from Damascus, informed sources here said.

Habash, 64, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), has been outside Syria since a few days before the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and he passed through Amman Friday on his way to the Iraqi capital, said the sources, insisting on anonymity.

"There are no plans at this point in time for any transfer of the PFLP base to Baghdad," said one of the sources, a member of the Palestine National Council (PNC). "Most of the members of the PFLP Central Committee are in Syria, and even if Habash wanted to switch his headquarters to Baghdad it cannot be an overnight process since it will

involve a lot of preparations," the source said when contacted by the Jordan Times to verify agency reports that Habash had in fact "transferred" his base to the Iraqi capital.

Radio Baghdad reported the meeting between Saddam and Habash, who last visited Baghdad in 1976 during the heyday of the Arab Steadfastness and Confrontation Front, which grouped Iraq, Syria, Algeria, Libya, South Yemen and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The PFLP is the second largest faction in the PLO after Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fateh and any switch in its relations with Iraq and Syria — archfoes for over a decade — would have a major impact on the overall Palestinian scene, particularly after the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait and Syria's contribution to an Arab force deployed in Saudi Arabia to counter the Iraqi presence in Kuwait.

According to Azmi Khawaja, an Amman-based member of the PFLP politburo, Habash was seeking to open a PFLP

office in the Iraqi capital. "Talks on this issue have been under way for some time, and I would not attach any other significance to (Habash's) current visit to Baghdad," Khawaja, who heads the Amman wing of the PFLP, told the Jordan Times Sunday.

Habash, along with fellow leftist leader Nayef Hawatmeh, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), reluctantly went along with Arafat's 1988 peace initiative, in which the PLO leader recognised the state of Israel, thus opting for a two-state solution, and renounced terrorism.

At least two other PLO factions are currently based in Baghdad. They are the Arab Liberation Front headed by Abdul Rahim Ahmad and the Palestine Liberation Front led by Mohammad Abbas (Abu Abbas). Both Ahmad and Abu Abbas are members of the executive committee of the PLO, which also maintains a representative office in addition to the embassy of the State of Palestine.

Americans, Europeans fly home from Baghdad

Combined agency dispatches

HUNDREDS of foreign women and children fled Iraq, including some who had been held at potential military targets, flew to freedom Sunday on jetliners from Baghdad.

A chartered Iraqi Airways Boeing 747, carrying more than 300 Westerners, arrived near Washington Sunday after stopovers at Orly international airport outside Paris at 4:05 a.m. (0205 GMT) and Heathrow airport in London about three hours later.

The jet, with as many as 55 Americans on board, landed at Dulles international airport outside Washington at about 1330 GMT. The passengers, weary from more than 24 hours of waiting and travelling, were awaited by family members and U.S. officials.

The jet was one of three to leave Baghdad airport Saturday. The flights carried hundreds of women and children and ailing men.

Earlier, a live television broadcast showed 17 French women and five children leaving the plane at Orly.

Also there was the Rev. Jesse Jackson, a U.S. civil rights leader, who accompanied 30 elderly

and sick Americans held in Kuwait.

"There was no evidence of abusive treatment but there was great tension," Jackson said after the five-hour flight to Paris. "There was a sense of jubilation."

Jackson said the release of the women and children was "a small step in the right direction" but a "more massive evacuation" is needed.

Earlier Sunday morning, a West German jet carrying 311 women and children from 22 countries arrived in Frankfurt on a flight from Baghdad.

The West German Foreign Ministry said 250 women and 61 children were aboard the Lufthansa Airbus, including 71 Germans and 60 Americans.

On Saturday, 68 Japanese women and children arrived in Amman on the first flight to leave Iraq.

Twelve other Japanese women and children, dependents of diplomats at Japan's embassy in Baghdad, arrived Sunday on a scheduled Iraqi Airways flight.

The eight women and four children were not able to make the

(Continued on page 5)

Jewish immigration hits monthly record

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Soviet Jews brought immigration to Israel in August to its highest level since the early years of the Jewish state, an immigration official said Sunday.

Yehuda Weinraub, of the semi-governmental Jewish Agency, told Reuters that 18,824 immigrants, 17,484 of them from the Soviet Union, arrived last month, raising the number of newcomers since the start of the year to 93,760.

Weinraub said 82,878 Soviet Jews had arrived this year and the agency expected the wave to continue unaffected by the Gulf crisis.

"There's no respite... not only the number of arrivals but also those requesting visas show no change," he said.

The August figures were a record from the Soviet Union and the largest overall flow of refugees since the three years after

Israel was founded in 1948, during which 684,000 Jews from all corners of the globe poured in.

Immigration from the Soviet Union reached its previous single-year peak in 1973 when 34,477 settled in Israel.

Liberalised Soviet policy under President Mikhail Gorbachev has allowed an exodus of Jews. Tougher U.S. immigration restrictions mean the vast majority are coming to Israel.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said last month that the Israeli mission in Moscow had issued 300,000 visas. Officials predict one million Soviet arrivals over the next five years.

Arabs have voiced fears that the tide of new Israelis could displace Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and make a stronger Jewish state less inclined to make peace with the Arabs.

Voluntary societies offer centres for training

AMMAN (J.T.) — The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has opened all its 118 centres around the country for the public to train in civil defence and first aid operations.

The announcement was made by GUVS Executive President Abdullah Al Khatib who said that, in cooperation with the Civil Defence Department, GUVS centres will be available not only for training but will also offer whatever they can afford in terms of first aid requirements as well as food and clothing in times of need.

GUVS, Khatib said, has also been providing free meals and other in-kind assistance to the evacuees now housed in gathering centres in Jordan.

Commenting on the outcome of Friday's campaign to raise funds and collect contributions for the benefit of the Iraqi children, Khatib said in a statement to the local press that a total of 1,000 children took part in the campaign, using 100 vehicles and small cars.

Thatcher pursues tough line

LONDON (Agencies) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, in a television interview broadcast Sunday, made a scathing attack on President Saddam Hussein warning him he could be tried for "war crimes".

The interview was recorded Saturday as diplomats finalised arrangements that led to the release of 200 British women and children held by the Iraqis.

Thatcher warned Iraq that it could be hauled before an international court for its actions following its invasion of Kuwait a month ago and prosecuted for "war crimes" as Germans were tried at Nuremberg after World War II.

"If anything happened to those hostages then sooner or later when our hostilities were over we could do what we did at Nuremberg and prosecute the requisite people for their totally uncivilised behaviour," she said.

"I do not want them to think they are going to get away with it because they won't," she told Britain's ITV network.

Thatcher was aware then that British women and children were about to be released and her comments suggested that their safe return would not weaken her resolve to stand up to Iraq.

Thatcher was unrestrained in her criticism of Saddam and said the holding of "hostages" would not prevent Britain from taking all "necessary" action against him.

Thatcher said sanctions against Iraq should be given a few months to work.

"I do believe it will take time for sanctions to work. I think it is just becoming obvious some are beginning to work," she said.

Asked if the commitment of British warplanes and ships to the Gulf was open-ended, she said: "It may be undated because we cannot foresee the future... we do not rule out the military option. It would be most unwise to do so."

Thatcher was the first Western ally to join the United States in rushing military forces to the Gulf after Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2, and she reiterated her view that other European nations were slow to act.

Masaadeh visits evacuee camps

AMMAN (J.T.) — Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masaadeh Sunday inspected two centres housing nearly 30,000 evacuees who fled the Gulf region to Jordan and was briefed on the services offered them by the various philanthropic organisations and an ad hoc government committee.

The minister visited the Amman International Fair Centre and Madaba district and talked to officials and volunteers providing relief services to the expatriates. According to an official accompanying Masaadeh on the tour, the government committee supervising relief work for the expatriates has been providing three light meals to them on a daily basis and medical services to prevent the spread of contagious diseases.

The official said that most of the evacuees in the two centres had travelled to Jordan by land through the Ruweisah border crossing point.

According to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, the present number of evacuees in Jordan Sunday evening was 80,000. Most of these evacuees, the agency said, are housed in Shaalan One and



Salem Masaadeh

Shaalan Two camps near the Iraqi border, and the rest are put up at Al Azraq camp, which can accommodate up to 30,000, the Amman International Fair Centre at Marj Al Hamam, and camps in Madaba and Aqaba.

The statement said that the ad hoc committee in charge of the evacuees was trying to separate various nationalities in different locations as best as possible.

American senators support moves in Gulf

DHAHRAN (AP) A delegation of U.S. senators Saturday brought mail and words of support to American troops in Saudi Arabia, with two saying the Middle East crisis had changed their views on sales of U.S. arms to the Saudis.

The 14-member delegation received a 30-minute briefing from the commander of American forces in the Middle East, General Norman Schwarzkopf, before heading to a number of American base camps in northeast Saudi Arabia.

"We're going to get rid of Saddam Hussein, and then we'll bring you guys home," Carl Levin, a Democratic senator from Michigan told one group of soldiers.

Senator David Durenberger, a Minnesota Republican, said the longer the standoff dragged on the greater the risk for Saddam.

Senator Alan Cranston, a California Democrat, said Schwarzkopf told the senators the United States' mission remained a defensive one and that no attack on Baghdad was planned for now.

Cranston, a pro-Israel lawmaker who has vociferously opposed past sales of high-tech U.S. arms to the Saudis, said the current crisis had convinced him "we should make available what they need."

Cranston said the United States could alleviate Israeli concerns by making additional weapons available for sale to them as well.

"I was the leader of the opposition, but not any more," Cranston said of military sales to the Saudis. "Now they are allied with us, they are sitting on the front lines, they will take the first casualties."

Another fierce defender of Israel in the Senate, New York Democrat Daniel Patrick Moynihan, said he too was convinced the Saudis now were deserving of further U.S. military equipment. Several senators said they wished more nations would join in the multinational defence force.

"I would like to see some of the Western European nations being more supportive," said Senator John Glenn, an Ohio Democrat. Glenn, the former astronaut, rode in the cockpit of a C-130 Hercules transport plane for one leg of the trip.

The senators took notes from soldier constituents and promised to contact family back home. They also brought boxes of mail and words of support.

The leader of the delegation, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Claiborne Pell, arrived with three boxes of mail. Aides said the boxes contained 600 pieces of mail from Pell's constituents in Rhode Island.

The Saturday visit was the second by a congressional delegation — eight senators came earlier in the week — and a third was due Sunday. A group of U.S. congressmen visit sailors Saturday aboard the USS La Salle.

If the troops were looking for word on when they might be coming home, they were disappointed.

Glenn said the "international squeeze play" was taking its toll. "But how long it takes, nobody knows — anywhere from six weeks to six months and beyond."

The group of congressmen who visited sailors aboard the USS La Salle Saturday, brought messages of optimism and support to the men on the naval task force command vessel.

U.N. chief's statement

Following is the full text of the U.N. secretary general's opening statement at Sunday's press conference.

AS YOU KNOW, I arrived in Amman on the evening of Aug. 30. I am now about to depart for Paris where, together with the president of France, I will open an important United Nations conference and where I also hope to meet His Majesty King Hussein.

During the past two days, I have had several hours of discussion with the deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Iraq, Mr. Tariq Aziz. I had invited him to meet with me urgently in order to engage in a full exchange of views on the crisis between Iraq and Kuwait. I did so out of my deep concern about the escalating tension in the region and the need to avert a further deterioration of the situation. In our meetings, I impressed on the minister the gravity with which the Security Council views the crisis, as evidenced in the five resolutions that have been adopted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.

In this context, I mentioned to the minister that the United Nations as a whole was committed to the approach adopted by the Security Council and that my own initiative had to be viewed in the framework of decisions taken by the principal organ of the United Nations responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. Despite the difficulties apparent to me before I came to Amman, I acted out of my strong conviction, as well as my sense of duty, that all possible means of achieving a peaceful solution had to be explored.

In the past two days, I have listened very carefully to all that the minister has said regarding Iraq's political and humanitarian concerns, and I shall certainly convey these to the Security Council upon my return to New York. On the political side, the minister stressed to me, as he has stated publicly, that his government would take no step that could escalate the military situation. On the humanitarian side, the minister drew particular attention to the need for adequate food and medical supplies to the people of Iraq. During our exchanges on the humanitarian issues, I welcomed the decision of the government that all women and children from third countries would be permitted to leave Iraq if they so wished. However, I emphasised that this decision should be followed by another, namely that restrictions on the movement of all third country nationals should be lifted.

In the course of our discussions, I suggested ways of dealing with all aspects of the crisis. The minister, for his part, while indicating to me his government's views, stressed in particular the need for an Arab solution. In reply I told him that while I fully shared his government's assessment that a solution of the crisis would require a major Arab role, the international dimension to the conflict had to be acknowledged. The global interests involved, the large build-up of forces in the area and the presence in Iraq and Kuwait of many third country nationals made it clear that the United Nations, as well as Arab governments, would have to be involved in resolving the many issues at stake.

As I leave Amman, I must acknowledge a certain disappointment because I had hoped for more in my discussions with Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz. Given the obvious importance of the role of the Security Council, I shall brief its members on the talks on my return to New York. I would have liked to inform the council that real progress had been made during the discussions here in Amman but, in all honesty, I cannot do so at present, nor can I anticipate the council's reaction. However, in the interest of all concerned, I hope that efforts will continue to be made to explore ways of advancing the search for a peaceful solution to the crisis, concerning the gravity and dangers of which there should be no illusion. We all need to work with a sense of determination and urgency.

'Lebanon's hostages to go free in weeks'

BEIRUT (R) — The 12 Western hostages in Lebanon will be free within the next few weeks and a British captive could be released later this month, sources close to the Iranian government said Sunday.

The Lebanese sources said the hostages, believed held by pro-Iranian groups, had "lost their bargaining value" because of the profound political shift in the region caused by Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait.

"The Iranians are in a race against time. They will lose if the issue drags on... so the release process that has already started, will pick up pace in the coming few weeks," said one of the sources.

There are six Americans, three Britons, two West Germans and an Italian held in Lebanon. Irishman Brian Keenan was freed last month after more than four years as a captive here. Four other hostages have been released in the past five months.

"Lebanon has in the past used the hostages as a bargaining chip for better relations with the West, but following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the U.S. deployment in Saudi Arabia, all this has changed," one senior source told Reuters.

Iran has condemned the invasion by Iraq, against which it fought an eight year war in the Gulf, and is backing U.N. sanc-

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Yemeni leader, Bush confer on Gulf

SANAA (R) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh spoke with U.S. President George Bush by telephone Saturday about ways of averting war in the Gulf, Sanaa Radio reported. It said the two leaders also discussed bilateral relations in addition to the latest developments in the Gulf. The radio also reported that the religious affairs minister of the exiled Kuwaiti government, Mohammad Nasser Al Hamdan, sent to Sanaa by the deposed Kuwaiti emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, was the first Kuwaiti official to visit Yemen since Iraqi troops overran Kuwait on Aug. 2. Yemen has asked Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait and called on the two countries to negotiate a peaceful settlement, but it has also criticised the buildup of U.S. and other Western forces in the area as a threat to the entire Arab World.

Algeria approves 27th political party

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria has legalised its 27th opposition political party, the Arab-Islamic Rally, ahead of the first free parliamentary elections next year, the Algerian news agency APS reported Saturday night. A law on political associations last year opened the way for multi-party democracy after 28 years of one-party rule by the National Liberation Front. The parliamentary poll is set for the first quarter of next year after local elections last June in which the fundamentalist Islamic Salvation Front triumphed. APS gave no details on the programme of the latest party, headed by Ali Zeghdaoui.

Gulf-bound U.S. ships sail through Suez

CAIRO (R) — Four U.S. military vessels, including a crude oil tanker, sailed through the Suez Canal Sunday to join a rapidly-growing international armada in the Gulf, assembled in the wake of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The freighter Denshola and vessel cargo ship Cape Inscription — both under U.S. military sealift command — crossed the strategic waterway towards the Red Sea, Suez Canal sources said. The other two vessels were the 38,717-tonne crude carrier Cape Henry and the 20,731-tonne ferry American Eagle, they added.

Quakes hit devastated Iranian town

NICOSIA (R) — The Iranian town of Roudbar, devastated by an earthquake on June 21, was shaken by four quakes overnight, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Sunday. It said there was no immediate report of casualties or damage caused by the tremors, the strongest measuring 4.1 on the Richter Scale. Roudbar, 220 kilometres northwest of Tehran, was torn apart by the June quake measuring 7.3 on the Richter Scale which killed 35,000 people and made half a million people homeless.

U.S. sends bombers to Saudi Arabia

LONDON (R) — The United States Sunday sent F-111 bombers, personnel and equipment from Britain to Saudi Arabia as part of its military buildup in the Gulf, a U.S. military spokesman said. The spokesman said the U.S. 48th tactical fighter wing dispatched F-111s, personnel and equipment from Lakenheath in southern England. He declined to give details of the number of planes and personnel involved, citing security reasons. Their exact destination in Saudi Arabia was not disclosed.

Iran assails Arafat over Kuwait

NICOSIA (R) — An Iranian newspaper Sunday attacked what it termed "deceit, hypocrisy and betrayal" of many Arab leaders, singling out PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's refusal to condemn Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. Kayhan International said Arafat, visiting Kuwait several years ago when it felt threatened by Iran during the Gulf war, vowed Palestinian fighters would defend the emirate against any aggressor. "Ironically Iraq invaded Kuwait, but Arafat and the PLO commanders were not in Kuwait to help Al Sabah (the Kuwaiti ruling family) when Baghdad invaded on Aug. 2," said the paper. On the contrary, it added, according to some Arab diplomats in the Gulf "much of Iraq's advance intelligence information was supplied by PLO supporters in Kuwait." The English-language paper said pettinness was a characteristic of many Arab leaders. "Treachery is taken for granted," it added. "From their point of view deceit, hypocrisy and betrayal is no vice."

China reports losses due to Gulf crisis

BEIJING (AP) — China, which has close ties with both Iraq and Kuwait, said Sunday that one of its major companies had lost \$10 million due to the crisis in the Gulf. China Metallurgical Construction Corp., a major overseas engineering company, has been forced out of Kuwait, resulting in a loss of more than \$10 million, the official China Daily reported. There was no word on China's total economic loss as a result of Iraq's Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Beijing has close trade ties with both countries. About 10,000 Chinese, mostly businessmen and construction workers, were in Kuwait and Iraq at the time of the invasion, previous reports have said. China also has supplied billions of dollars' worth of arms to Iraq, but has pledged to abide by a U.N. embargo that includes a ban on military sales to Iraq. A foreign ministry spokesman said at a weekly briefing last week that she had no information about China's financial losses in the two countries.

Israel sending delegation to Moscow

TEL AVIV (AP) — A foreign ministry delegation will travel to Moscow in the next two weeks to discuss the future Soviet role in the Middle East in light of the Gulf crisis, an official said Sunday. The Hebrew daily Haaretz said the delegation also will prepare for Foreign Minister David Levy's meeting with his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, expected during the U.N. General Assembly session in New York later this month. The paper noted it would be the first such trip to the Soviet Union in advance of a foreign ministers' meeting since 1967, when Moscow broke diplomatic relations with Israel. The government official, who confirmed the trip on condition of anonymity, said the talks would focus on the Soviet Union's role in the Middle East.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77111-10

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
16:00 News summary
16:10 Local programme
16:20 Programme review
16:30 News in Arabic
16:35 Arabic series
16:45 Varieties
16:50 Perfect Strangers
21:10 Murder She Wrote
21:20 News in English
22:30 Mystery movie: "The Most Dangerous Man"

PRAYER TIMES

04:47 Fair
05:37 (Sunrise) Doha
12:35 Dhahar
16:10 'Asr
19:43 Maghrib
20:23 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 635785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Demetrius Church Tel. 622644

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 626543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751

Armenian Apostolic Church Tel. 683320

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811750

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

AMMAN

Min. Max. Temp. 12-23

Aqaba 15-25

Deserts 20-35

Jordan Valley 20-35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 21, Aqaba 26. Humidity readings: Amman 45 per cent, Aqaba 24 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Walid Maan 57482

Dr. Ahmad Nawas 71306

Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa 72206

Dr. Salameh Al Daboubi 76751

Firas pharmacy 66441

Ferdous pharmacy 73536

Al Azma pharmacy 63755

Nairook pharmacy 63672

Al Salam pharmacy 63673

Yacoub pharmacy 64441

Shamees pharmacy 63746

DRUGS:

Dr. Ibrahim Al Rabab 1-1

Al Sharaa pharmacy 95328

ZARQA:

Dr. Khamis Al-Jarrah (1-1)

Khalid pharmacy 965417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630741

Rescue 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotels/Compliments 605800

Price Complaints 661178

Water and Sewerage 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Compliments 787111

Telephone Information 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 771111

Repairs 621101

Jordan Telegraph 681101

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815015

Electric Power

Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 98-57203

Queen Alia Int. Airport 06-53570

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 8181373

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642316

Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642402

Malhas, J. Amman 636140

Palestine, Shamsan 6441714

Shamsan Hospital 669131

University Hospital 7311126

Al-Masbar Hospital 667279

The Islamic, Abdali 6661773

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641648

Italian, Al-Mabja 771013

Al-Bashir, J. Amman 7311126

Army, Marja 8916115

Queen Alia Hospital 6224030

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)91071

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)886732

DRUGS:

Princess Basma Hospital

(02)275555

Green Catholic Hospital (02)27275

Be Al-Saleh Hospital (02)27100

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)535004, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

16:00 Damascus (RJ)

Official: Food rationing could encourage black market

By Nur Safi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Food rationing measures could not have come at a more timely moment with black market and hoarding flourishing for some time. This practice did not but widen the gap between the upper and lower classes, with the latter at clear disadvantage.

The big question seems to be whether these measures will really ease up the trends of black marketing, smuggling and hoarding. According to Mohammad Asfour, chairman of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce, food rationing could encourage and encourage the black market where "people could buy other people's coupons and shares, especially when it comes to the needy people because they are (simple minded) and are less capable of planning their life," Asfour says.

Many people think that the black market will develop and that people would start selling sugar at the prices of the market.

Asfour says that a major concern has been the numerous cases of smuggling to other Arab countries, specifically to Saudi Arabia and Syria. "Having subsidised food encourages further the idea of smuggling because it is sold at a cheap price," Asfour adds.

Another serious worry now is the fact that it would be easy for people to forge ration coupons. "If people can forge money, what is to stop them from forging something as simple as coupons?" he asks.

This appears to be a tricky situation for the specialists

concerned, but Asfour hopes that the business community would step forward and consider allowing the private sector to help the government import food products and "allow supply and demand to take its course."

Specialists think that the measure would help hoarding more than the black market. The chairman of the General Association for Foodstuffs Merchants, Elia Nuqul, says that it all depends on the precision of the system and how it is implemented. "I think that the Ministry of Supply can achieve its temporary objective and stop hoarding through food rationing."

But he adds that subsidy means more unnecessary consumption of certain items and that only 25 to 50 per cent of the subsidy goes to people who need it while the balance is an unnecessary burden on the budget. But Nuqul adds that "the rationing may be necessary as long as the government is selling at subsidised prices."

The public seems to react with mixed feelings to this new approach and some seem to be worried about their children, especially infants, who require large amounts of milk. According to Asfour, the ministry says that there are enough food supplies and that rationing "a precautionary method," especially now that the influx of refugees through Al-Ruweish border post is in the thousands.

Meanwhile Nuqul says that a certain category of consumers — whose consumption of sugar, rice and milk is limited — will not be affected. "It is only those families whose consumption is above the normal

standard that will have to pay the difference between the free price and the subsidised price on the additional quantity they consume."

Looking from the traders' perspective, Nuqul says that although their poor margin of profit will change slightly, the traders would continue to perform their role as in the past.

Asfour adds that in a meeting with minister of supply there were discussions about allowing traders to import the main food products alongside the government. Although, he says, it would not have the same specifications, at least this would "create a market economy where the low income family can buy what they can afford and the well to do families can also buy to their capacities."

A woman in a supermarket, interviewed by the Jordan Times, said that it was a reasonable measure and that she had no reservations and thought the amounts given by the ministry to the people were enough. Asfour is of the same opinion. "With the situation we are living in it is a good measure."

He explained that everyone might feel equal this way and therefore it will have a positive impact on the upper and lower classes of the Jordanian society.

Another group of men and women interviewed said they felt this measure was in a way contradicting the ministry's statements saying that there is plenty of food in the country, and one man said he even felt frightened.

Asfour assures that while it

could be taken as a contradictory sign, "we haven't really suffered from food shortages yet." He said he hoped that the ministry would consider replenishing food supplies all the time. "But even though the public is aware that they are living in a war-type zone, basic food products are needed," the interviewee said.

Food rationing can be beneficial to the current trends of storing large quantities of food.

But as far as smuggling is concerned, and the possibility of black market, other measures may have to be taken.

A successful way of reducing smuggling would have been to open imports of food products for everyone who can do it and have the Ministry of Supply act as a safety valve. "This way the ministry could step in once the food products begin declining from the market," Asfour says.

Nuqul agrees in that a free market should be out where prices are decided by market forces. "I hope it will not be long before the government will return the trading of sugar, rice, and milk to the private sector where competition will provide consumers with the right material and the desired quantity at reasonable prices."

Although the food rationing is temporary, it could also go on for a long time. At the same time, smuggling has no limits. The accumulation of food products will be inviting to the smugglers and worth while their way. The black market is something that cannot be stopped either as it depends on how much people need the items.

Princess Basma visits evacuee camp

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, Chairperson of Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund's Board of Trustees, Sunday paid an inspection visit to Al Andalus emergency camp for evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait and inspected the conditions of people living there.

Princess Basma was accompanied by a team comprising representatives of the United Nations emergency relief organisations who arrived in Amman recently to assess the evacuees' needs of essential food, drugs and tents.

Princess Basma thanked the people working in the camp for their great efforts to alleviate the sufferings of the camp residents.

RJ suspends hiring

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Jordanian (RJ) has adopted a decision to suspend appointing any personnel as of Sept. 1, in view of the current situation and the heavy financial burdens encountered by the institution. A spokesman for the Royal Jordanian said that the cadres currently employed by the RJ were sufficient to keep the institution's business running smoothly.

Evacuation camps are in dire need of help — U.N. officials

AMMAN (J.T.) — Despite fervent appeals by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and an inter-ministerial committee in charge of the evacuees to nations and international organisations for greater assistance to Jordan to help it cope with the flood of expatriates fleeing the Gulf, the situation here is far from being satisfactory.

Officials from the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO) and the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) stationed in Jordan have described the situation at Shaalan One and Shaalan Two evacuee camps near the Iraqi border as dangerous.

Interviewed by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, these officials said that the situation was being aggravated by the arrival of additional expatriates who fail to find room in the overcrowded camps.

"Unless arrangements for these evacuees to leave for Amman prior to their departure home are made soon, the situation will be out of control," they said.

The two camps lack sufficient tents, food supplies and other basic necessities, and the expatriates are facing the desert heat and intolerable conditions, the officials said.

Officials say arrangements should be urgently made for the departure of the evacuees now housed at the two camps to Amman prior to their departure home so as to make room for the new arrivals through the border post of Ruweish.

U.N. officials' views were supported by the Health Department Director in Mafraq Dr. Atallah Assad, who said that the evacuees were living in sub-human conditions with no proper sanitary services, medical care and decent accommodation with many sleeping out in the open.

Shaalan One camp houses 28,000 while Shaalan Two houses 20,000 at present, but more are coming, Dr. Assad said. "Up to 40 persons live in a single tent and they all complain of water and food shortages and sanitary units," he added.

Dr. Assad said that 18 sanitary units were available at Shaalan One camp serving 28,000 citizens.

According to Dr. Assad, diseases are bound to break out because the evacuees lack proper means of disposing of waste or due to sun strokes, exhaustion, diarrhoea and other illnesses.

He said that the different languages of the evacuees poses another problem, and sometimes leads to the creation of differences and disputes among the expatriates in the camps.

According to U.N. officials on the site, an Italian plane laden with relief supplies arrived Saturday night and nine other planes are due to arrive carrying relief supplies for the camps.

They said that the first plane load consisted of 70 tents, 5,000 blankets, 20 water tanks. U.N. officials said arrangements were being made to fly at least 10,000 evacuees weekly to their home countries within a week from now.

The camps' residents are made up of Indians, Sri Lankans, Pakistanis, Thais, Bangladeshis and Filipinos.

Jordanian and U.N. officials repeated calls for urgent and speedy assistance to help them carry on with their humanitarian services.

Children's march marks 999th day of intifada

By Mariam M. Shabin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In commemoration of the 999th day of the Palestinian intifada 700 children marched through the streets of Jabal Amman Sunday morning as U.N. Chief Perez de Cuellar told reporters, "I hope that what is happening now will open the eyes of those who are against attacking frontally the problem of Palestine."

"A sin... doesn't justify another sin," said de Cuellar, referring to the Israeli occupation of Arab territory during a press conference held in another part of the city simultaneously with the protest march.

As children read out and later presented letters to the American and then Iraqi embassies expressing displeasure of the official policy in one and support in times of need in the other, the intifada mood was largely overshadowed.

In a symbolic gesture of solidarity demonstrators offered bags of powdered milk to the Iraqi ambassador as he received their message at the gate of the Iraqi embassy. The demonstration, which was organised by the women's chapter of the union for the Arab Nation Committee was the second children's rally held this week.

The issue of American and other foreign intervention in

the Gulf, and as a consequence tremendous popular support for Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, have largely overshadowed the events in the occupied territories.

Just as West Bankers had expressed themselves ready to send foodstuffs to Iraq earlier last month, the intifada demonstration turned into an anti-American, pro-Iraqi rally.

"Long live Abu Odeh," chanted the children in unison referring to Saddam Hussein by his *nom de guerre*, followed by chants of "America is the head of the snake."

"We are here to tell the Americans to stop the blockade," one 12-year-old said explaining what he was doing, at the rally.

Palestinian, Jordanian and Iraqi flags were prominent at the one-hour demonstration; photographs of King Hussein outnumbered those of Saddam Hussein, two to one, and, curiously for a demonstration commemorating the intifada, no posters of Yasser Arafat were raised.

While a number of children chanted pro-Arafat slogans mentioning of the PLO or the Palestine president was minimal.

While many of the mothers and school teachers often tried to guide the theme of the slogans the "popular" responses overshadowed the guided ones. "America is the head of the snake" and "long live Sad-

dam" were the most frequently and enthusiastically repeated slogans at the rally which was led for the most part by a ten-year boy as he shouted slogans into the loudspeaker.

Some observers believe the Palestinian intifada, in which close to 1,000 Palestinians have been killed or the news coverage thereof, has been badly undermined by the recent events in the Gulf and that the almost unequivocal support by the Palestinians everywhere of the Iraqi government may hurt their "international standing."

Many Palestinians see the situation differently, however. "Yes we are supporting Saddam Hussein and King Hussein now because Yasser Arafat's moderation policy did not work," said one Palestinian who has lived in Jordan since 1948. "We watched as the PLO, made concession after concession and then the U.S. stopped talking to him; that was his reward for moderation — not a state for his people but a breakdown of talks," he added.

"The U.S. and the West have shown that they only understand fear and respect 'tough men and bullies' as they call Saddam; that's why we are cheering Saddam because somewhere, somehow he represents a flicker of hope for those for whom all hope has died," said another commentator Sunday as the 999th day of the uprising drew to a close.

U.N. relief organisations to charter flights for evacuees

By Lima Nabli
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The United Nations relief organisations in Jordan will operate 17 chartered flights to transport some 166,000 evacuees from Iraq and Kuwait, most of them Asians, to their respective countries.

Klaus Wiersing, the United Nations Office of the Disaster Relief Coordinator, said that United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation (UNDRO) has signed contracts with foreign and Arab airlines, including Royal Jordanian, to operate 17 flights this week, to carry evacuees now living in Ruweish camps to their countries.

Under the contracts, Royal Jordanian will operate 7 Airbus flights to Dhaka to carry Bangladeshis nationals home.

Klaus said that his organisation had launched two appeals, one for food and medical supplies for the increasing numbers of evacuees from Kuwait and Iraq and the other for international assistance to transport the evacuees to their countries.

The Jordanian government has recently appealed to the international community to help it shoulder the additional burden of evacuees from the tension spots. Wiersing said that the high temperatures in Ruweish and the shortage of water had led to cases of diarrhoea and dehydration among children.

Asked whether he expects an outbreak of other epidemics, such as cholera, Wiersing said "we don't know yet, it is still early to predict now whether there will be an outbreak of such epidemics."

In a bid to help the government cope with the new situation, a Japanese plane, carrying tents, food supplies and water tanks landed in Amman Sunday, and another plane, carrying relief supplies donated by the European Community, arrived in Amman Sunday.

A huge Russian cargo plane, carrying food supplies and tents, donated by the Polish government, is expected today, Monday.

Head of the Technical Support Services of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Omar Al Bakht said that the number of evacuees crossing the Jordanian border point at Ruweish ranges between 7,000 and 10,000 Bakht added that hundreds of evacuees cross Ruweish every hour.

Iraq's technical progress behind U.S. hostility — Anani

AMMAN (Petra) — Former minister and President of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) Dr. Jawad Al Anani believes that the United States' hostile attitude towards Iraq stems basically from the fact that the latter has lately been trying to achieve technological development especially in military fields.

Speaking in a weekly television programme Sunday Anani said that Iraq had taken steps to bridge the gap between developing and industrial nations in technological fields and had gone a long way in achieving that goal.

"This is the main reason behind Washington's hostile attitude against Iraq which aims to stem its socio-economic development and its drive to acquire sophisticated weaponry," Anani said.

"The Arab World has a total of 200 noted scientists and inventors

compared to three million in the advanced world and the Arab World's skilled workers form only 12 per cent of the total population, compared to 90 per cent of the total workforce in the industrialised world," Anani said.

Anani said that the developed nations' per capita spending on scientific research and technology amounts to \$350 compared to \$3 in the Arab countries.

"Because Iraq has displayed high technological capabilities, especially in the military domain, it has been targeted by the Western nations," Anani said. "Should other Arab country follow in Iraq's footsteps, he added, the Western powers would be facing the prospect of losing the vast Arab markets which consume huge quantities of weaponry every year," Anani said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosenthal (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- Exhibition displaying posters on environmental control measures of each sector of the environment (air, land and water) at the British Council.
- Archaeological exhibition entitled "Al Lajjun — a Roman Frontier Fort" at the Registration and Research Centre of the Department of Antiquities, Jabal Amman.



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University students start training for emergencies

By Ali Masarweh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — After organising rallies of support for Iraq at the outset of the Gulf crisis, students at the University of Jordan are now embarking on training programmes, both military and civilian to enhance their readiness in any case of emergency, according to the dean of the Department of Students' Affairs, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Khair Mansir.

"After the Gulf crisis broke out, several rallies in support of Iraq, His Majesty the King, and the policies of the Jordanian government were held by students of various groupings, all of whom acted in a very orderly and responsible manner," Mansir told the Jordan Times.

As the enthusiastic show of support for Iraq and other

nationalist causes, expressed by numerous demonstrations and rallies at the outset of the current Gulf crisis, has begun to lose momentum, dealing with the crisis practically, on a day-to-day basis has become a priority and necessity for Jordanians.

"During the first weeks of the (Gulf) crisis demonstrating and holding rallies in support of Iraq was fine, but now, we have to start addressing the problems resulting from the conflict, such as helping foreign refugees in and around Amman," a student from the university said.

The students at the University of Jordan have been quick in responding to the recent developments in Jordan, with hundreds of students extending practical help by volunteering to perform humanitarian services, such as that provided by the Hashemite Jordanian

Charitable Society for foreign refugees stranded in Jordan. In addition to that, civil defence and first aid courses in the university have been beefed up, the peoples' army training programme for students is well under way and lectures on chemical and biological warfare are being jointly organised by the university and military experts.

The University of Jordan is obviously preparing to deal with all military eventualities, including the actual defence of the university itself.

"About 500 students started digging trenches and setting up bomb shelters inside the campus for protection," Mansir said. "After the first batch of students has completed the peoples' army training programme, we shall also commence with training the university staff," he maintained.

Caritas head in Jordan appeals for international assistance

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Caritas Committee announced Saturday that it had distributed 1,000 blankets, food and medical supplies in various quantities to evacuees fleeing to Jordan from Kuwait since the start of the Gulf crisis last month.

following a committee meeting chaired by Roman Catholic Bishop Salim Al Sayegh, said that contacts were underway with the Vatican-based International Caritas Organisation for more relief supplies for the humanitarian cause.

of distributing relief supplies at the various centres where evacuees gather in the Kingdom.

Caritas Director in Jordan Father Mousa Adeli has been discussing with groups of French and other European journalists ways to obtain additional help for Jordan's humanitarian role.

The announcement, made here

The committee discussed ways

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3. Tokyo	— Japan
4. Sydney	— Australia
5. Melbourne	— Australia
6. Perth	— Australia

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U.N. leaves door open

(Continued from page 1)

allow foreign women and children held in Iraq and Kuwait to leave. Thousands of foreigners are still being held in the two countries.

In answer to a question about a possible partial Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, the secretary general said that the idea was incompatible with U.N. Security Council resolutions. "No, I cannot conceive the concept of a partial withdrawal," he said. "The Security Council resolution is very clear. It is for withdrawal and not for partial withdrawal."

At the beginning of his Amman talks, the secretary general made it clear that the five Security Council resolutions adopted after the Aug. 2 invasion would be the framework for his talks with Aziz. He said he had no mandate to negotiate or make concessions. The secretary general said he had invited the Iraqi foreign minister to see whether Iraq would comply with the resolutions.

In answer to a question about Saddam's initiative linking Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait to a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, Perez de Cuellar said that all Security Council resolutions should be implemented, but "one sin does not justify another sin."

"I hope what is happening now will open the eyes of those who are against attacking from the problem of Palestine," the secretary general said.

Asked what his role was in quiet diplomacy, which, Aziz said, was needed to resolve the crisis, the secretary general said: "The situation is very explosive. You cannot say quiet diplomacy and then spend months and years dealing with the problem... we

Westerners fly home

(Continued from page 1)

special flight for Japanese Saturday night, said Japanese sources. Iraqi aviation authorities said earlier that about 430 foreigners had left Baghdad, but gave no breakdown. But totals provided by various airlines and diplomats indicated that nearly 700 foreigners may have gotten out.

Some of the American and British women interviewed at Baghdad airport before their departure said they left husbands behind as part of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's deterrence against attacks.

"Our husbands are being held in danger," said an American woman waiting to leave Baghdad airport on Saturday. She declined to give her name.

Another, Debby Willis, said she and her husband, Jerry, were trying to escape across the desert from Kuwait when Iraqi troops captured them. Her husband stayed behind at a military site, she said.

Authorities held the Iraqi flight full of Americans and Britons until Jackson returned from Kuwait with 30 hostages he collected after meeting twice with Saddam.

In Baghdad, Jackson told the Associated Press: "This is a window of hope, and it must be expanded."

He said he was encouraged by his meetings with Saddam, whom he found ready to talk. "When people are willing to talk, that is a

Aoun

(Continued from page 1)

Security sources said some 700 soldiers loyal to Hrawi, backed by tanks and artillery, had taken up positions in the past three days near the presidential palace in the Beirut suburb of Baabda.

These will not be anywhere near enough to topple Aoun but are widely seen as a vanguard for a larger force. Witnesses also saw Syrian reinforcements around the enclave.

"Lebanon is on the brink of economic collapse. We will take all necessary measures to save the country... we will try our best not to resort to force but if we have to we will do it whatever the cost is," said Mansour.

At a news conference Friday Aoun ruled out the possibility of military action and described the buildup as a means of pressuring him to recognise Hrawi.

The Lebanese pound lost about half its value last month and is now around 1,000 to the dollar. It was four to the dollar as late as 1983.

"People cannot afford to buy food any more, there is a huge unemployment rate and thousands are emigrating. The country is falling apart and the government is paralysed because of Aoun," said a senior official. "This cannot go on for too long."

The peace pact stipulates reforms giving Muslims more say in the Christian-dominated political system, the disbanding of all militias and a gradual redeployment of Syrian troops away from

Migrant workers' hostels are the tinderboxes of apartheid

By Philippa Fletcher
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG. — Separate thousands of men from their families, pack them into dormitories with nothing to do in the evenings but drink, then see what happens when someone starts a fight.

In the past two weeks South Africa has seen a full-scale war explode around the men-only hostels where thousands of migrant workers live. The violence pits township residents loyal to the African National Congress (ANC) against Zulu hostel dwellers, but Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu said the underlying causes were neither political nor tribal.

"It is making people live in those dehumanising (hostel) conditions, isolating them from the community, that has exacerbated the kind of problems that we have," Tutu said.

The hostels, huge barracks of single or double-storey blocks, were built in the black townships around Johannesburg decades ago to house extra workers for the white city.

"They were a part of this idea that black people did not belong here, except as temporary workers," said Harry Mashabela of the South African Institute of Race Relations.

Often separated from the rest of the townships by a wire fence, the hostels were designed to prevent blacks penned by apartheid in 10 tribally-defined rural homelands from settling near their jobs in Johannesburg.

A man could live in a hostel as long as he was working, but his family were prevented by law from joining him.

He was a "guest worker" in his own country.

Pretoria scrapped the law restricting freedom of movement for

blacks in 1986, but a critical housing shortage in the blacks-only townships means the hostels remain, a grim testament to the inhumanity of apartheid.

Ernest Molosi, assistant personnel officer in a Johannesburg industrial company, is one of more than 100,000 men who live in hostels around the country's industrial and financial capital.

At work he has his own office, but back in Tembisa township he shares a bedroom with 24 other men. Unlike many of the hostel dwellers who are Zulus, he comes from the northern Sotho tribe.

His wife and five children live in Pietersburg, 200 kilometres away. But the politically conservative rural town had no work for a black manager.

He is fortunate to be able to visit his family most weekends. Many of his fellow residents do not have enough time or money to visit their far-off homelands more than once a year.

"It's not a good life to stay in the hostel," he told Reuters. "In our room there is only one stove, one toilet and one bath. There's no privacy."

Our room is like a hall, which has just been divided to accommodate two beds in one. In each section there are two beds and two lockers, that is all."

Molosi, 42, has lived in the hostel for 10 years. He is used to being kept awake with shouting and loud music, but recently his sleep has been disturbed by gunshots.

"On (last) Sunday one man was shot dead next to the hostel office and on Monday morning someone found a corpse on the road outside," he said.

So far Tembisa has escaped the worst of the violence which has swept through Johannesburg's townships.

About 500 people have been shot, stabbed or burnt to death. Molosi says the spark for the violence may be political — a power-struggle between the ANC and the Zulu Inkatha movement — but that its roots lie firmly in apartheid.

"Originally people worked together and they didn't have these problems, but since the government started its 'separate development' policy people just feel that it's better to live with your own people," he said.

Migrant labour was a cornerstone of separate development — the policy of forcing black ethnic groups into their own tribal territories and making blacks think along tribal lines.

"The hostel manager just brings someone you don't know, and you have to persuade them to go along with what the majority of the room wants," said Molosi.

Female visitors are not allowed and there are no recreation facilities. In the evenings the men, many of them illiterate labourers, have nothing to do but drink the alcohol sold by the hostel's unofficial entrepreneurs.

The Spanish fan regains dignity among Europeans

By Stephen Brown
Reuters

MADRID — Spurned for years by young Spanish women as fit only for their grandmothers, the fan, the most typically Spanish accessory, has fluttered back into fashion.

The "abanico" has survived air conditioning, electric fans and small battery-operated models. It is quieter and more portable than the competition and more importantly it is stylish — a cool way to keep cool.

Retailers tell of fan sales doubling or tripling in the last two years on the crest of an international wave of vogue for all things Spanish, including Bolero jackets, Flamenco music and "tapas" bars selling Spanish nibbles.

Older women never stopped using fans to fend off the crushing heat of summer, especially in Andalusia, but now the gentle flapping of fans is everywhere.

At the bullring and on the bus, in the Zarzuela (Spanish opera) and on the metro, in trendy open-air "terrazas" bars and traffic jams, they give women a bit of a breeze and a stylish air.

"In the past two years there has been a huge rise in interest in fans... not just in Spain but in Germany, France, England and above all Italy," said Ricardo Bermejo at his fan shop under the porticoes of Madrid's Plaza Mayor.

Bermejo's fan sales have risen to some 6,000 a year from between 2,000 to 3,000 two years ago. He said the style-conscious Italians were the foreigners who had shown most interest. "Italians understand them better," he said.

The abanico is said to have been "discovered" by Spaniards in the conquest of the Philippines, where it had arrived from China and Japan. The Philippines also produced another typical Spanish accessory, the "mantón de Manila" — a large silk shawl painted with flowers and draped over the shoulders.

The fan quickly found popularity in Spain's colonies in America, among macho conquistadors as well as their wives, then reached Spain on returning galleons. When Spain's Eugenia De Montijo married Napoleon the third and became Empress of France from 1853 to 1870 she took the fan to the French court and made it the vogue in the courts of Europe.

In less easy times women also used the fan to control their lovers' ardour with a kind of coquettish semaphore. With a simple movement of the fan a woman could break a heart or flirt with a beau.

By turning it in her right hand she told him "I love another," by fanning herself slowly she warned "I am married" and touching her lips with the handle said "kiss me."

A middle-aged Madrid woman in Bermejo's shop was buying a plain black fan to add to her collection.

"I have fans of every colour — red, green, blue, yellow — to combine with my clothes," she said. "I've used them all my life and I even carry one in my handbag on the metro in winter because sometimes you can hardly breathe down there."

APPEAL

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The children of Jordan demand all to implement the principles of the international declaration on children's rights which provides for protecting and taking care of children under all circumstances, in all times and in the days of war and peace alike. The principles of the international declaration on the children's rights by which all the world abide by linking between these rights and the child's basic needs. The declaration's provisions under articles No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10 guarantee the protection and welfare of children as well as social, food, and educational security and their right to grow up in healthy conditions in the times of war, peace and disasters.

The children of Jordan appeal for providing milk, food and medicine supplies for the children of Iraq.

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Spain plans tough austerity to counter Gulf crisis effects

MADRID (R) — Spain is preparing a tough economic austerity plan to beat the effects of the Gulf crisis, mindful that failure to act quickly during the first oil crisis of the 1970s led to years of recession.

The government has yet to impose the measures, but says they will include austerity both in government spending and in the private sector and asks for union cooperation.

Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, in a television interview, said rising oil prices and inflation meant wages and prices must be controlled if jobs are to be saved. "We are not prepared to allow Spain to go through the same situation of 15 years ago when we had to pay an extraordinarily high price for government intervention," he said.

Spain's economy is growing fast but is among the most vulnerable of European Community (EC) countries to rising oil prices, behind Italy, with 53 per cent of its energy needs coming from petroleum, almost all of it imported.

Gonzalez said Spaniards had to expect a ripple effect throughout the economy from higher oil prices and asked unions to accept the sacrifice of foregoing excess

sive wage demands. The alternative, he said, would be lost jobs. Unions immediately rejected suggestions of giving up wage hikes, arguing they had held down demands for three years in solidarity with government efforts to control inflation.

"It is not fair we should be asked for more sacrifice. When things are going well the same people always benefit but when we have a crisis the workers are the ones to suffer," said General Workers' Union (UGT) leader Antonio Sarracibar.

The Gulf crisis has already forced the government to raise its 1990 inflation forecast to 6.7 per cent from 5.7 per cent, dashing business hopes of an early end to tight money policies designed to cool Spain's overheating economy.

Economists say this policy has kept the peseta artificially strong with high interest rates that have penalised investment. They urge the government to limit spending to beat inflation.

Government spokeswoman Rosa Conde, speaking after a cabinet meeting where Economy Minister Carlos Solchaga outlined plans to face the Gulf crisis, said the 1991 budget will be much more restrictive than originally

planned. "It is better to be on the extreme side in adopting rigorous measures even if later they have to be amended because the situation improves," she told reporters.

The Spanish economy is still among the healthiest in the EC, growing 4.9 per cent last year and expected to grow 4.1 per cent in 1990, well above the Community average.

But the government's monetary policies are beginning to have some worrying effects. Tourism receipts fell 8.5 per cent in the first half due to the strong peseta and industrial orders dropped 19 per cent in June against the same month last year.

The current account deficit has widened 39 per cent in the first seven months of 1990 to \$8.47 billion, so far offset by strong foreign investment.

However, economists said foreign capital has shown itself highly sensitive to the Gulf crisis, with hundreds of millions of dollars withdrawn from Spanish government bonds last week.

An exodus of foreign capital has also been behind a 12.6 per cent slump on the Madrid stock exchange since Iraq's takeover of Kuwait.

India to get additional oil supplies

NEW DELHI (R) — Petroleum Minister Malaogi Gurupadaswamy has said India was arranging to buy five million tonnes of crude from several countries to make up for supplies lost due to the Gulf crisis.

He told the Press Trust of India news agency that Iran, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia and the Soviet Union had promised to supply enough for India's needs and that contracts with some of the countries were likely to be signed shortly.

An Indian team was in the Soviet Union negotiating for more oil, he said.

Oil from Iraq and Kuwait was to have provided more than 40 per cent of India's 19 million tonnes of oil imports for the current fiscal year which began April 1. The supplies have been halted by a United Nations trade embargo on Iraq.

Gurupadaswamy estimated that the surge in oil prices would cost India an extra \$1.7 billion this fiscal year.

India currently meets 10 per cent of its needs with Iranian oil. But its biggest supplier is the Soviet Union which accounts for 31.5 per cent of the country's needs.

S. Arabia hikes oil output

DHAHRAN (R) — Saudi Arabia has raised oil production to 7.4 million barrels per day (b/d) to help make up a shortfall from U.N.-blockaded Iraq and Kuwait, a Saudi source has said.

"Production was 7.4 million b/d as of Friday. Production is now two million b/d more than it was," the source told reporters in Dhahran.

OPEC agreed at a meeting in Vienna last week to allow members to increase production above previous quotas. Saudi Arabia's quota before Iraq's Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait was 5.38 million b/d.

The Saudi Arabian source told reporters Saturday night that the United Arab Emirates was increasing output by 500,000 b/d, Venezuela by 300,000, Mexico by 100,000, and other OPEC states by 200,000. U.S. fields in Alaska were raising output by 50,000 b/d.

"This adds up to 3.15 million b/d of... the shortfall of oil from Iraq and Kuwait," the source said.

Iraq's and Kuwait's OPEC production quotas total 4.64 million b/d but the U.N. trade embargo has halted their exports.

Prior to the invasion Iraq was exporting 2.7 million b/d, most of it through pipelines across Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hammadi said Saturday Iraq would abide by what it sees as its new oil quota — a combination of its production with that of Kuwait which Iraq has declared its 19th province.

"We are now producing 3.1 million b/d, according to the OPEC quota, but the new Iraq will be committed to produce 4.6 million b/d after adding Kuwait province's production of 1.5 b/d," Hammadi said on Baghdad television.

Hammadi said Iraq's crude reserves had risen from 100 billion barrels to 194.5 billion, after adding Kuwait reserves of 94.5 billion barrels.

Oil sources in Saudi Arabia said Riyadh began boosting production at the beginning of the third week after the takeover.

"The first week they did nothing because they were worried about Iraq's response. The second week there was a lot of going back and forth as officials in the kingdom decided what to do," a source said.

"And the third week they began raising production," he added.

Oil prices soared more than 50 per cent after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait to \$31 per barrel, but have dropped back to about \$26.

Meanwhile, a Reuters survey shows some OPEC members quietly began boosting oil production just after Iraq's takeover of Kuwait, even as they were publicly urging output restraint.

Data shows oil production dropped to 19.86 million barrels a day in August — down three million barrels a day — as the international trade embargo on Iraq and Kuwait oil brought sharp production cuts in those countries.

But other OPEC members were rapidly opening up the taps.

The extra oil helped narrow the supply gap as Iraq and Kuwait's combined production dropped to an average of 1.05 million b/d from five million in July. Virtually all the output came before the international embargo.

"It is physically impossible to cut production off like a knife," said Vahan Zanzayan, analyst at Petroleum Finance Co. He added that Kuwait output averaged 1.3 million b/d for the first week before dropping sharply in the days after Iraq's invasion.

One source said that not all of the Saudis' additional oil found its way to the marketplace, with 200,000 barrels going into storage.

Venezuela was another of the OPEC countries to increase output following the Iraqi invasion. It increased output by 150,000 barrels to 2.1 million barrels.

An official source said Venezuela's production was even higher on some days, reaching 2.25 million to 3.0 million barrels in August, which is well above its OPEC quota of 1.945 million.

Iran's output rose 200,000 barrels to 3.2 million, versus its OPEC quota of 3.14 million, despite Iran's stated position after the Iraqi takeover that OPEC members should not try to fill the supply gap to the detriment of their common long-term interest.

American consumer confidence index drops

NEW YORK (R) — Americans, increasingly worried about the economy and pessimistic about the future, are demonstrating the lowest consumer confidence since the United States was recovering from recession more than seven years ago, a business group has said.

The Conference Board's consumer confidence index fell dramatically to 83.3 in August from 101.7 in July. The index, based on a 1985 level of 100, is based on monthly surveys of 5,000 U.S. households.

"Recession is more likely now than it has been in many years," said Fabian Linden, executive director of the non-profit group's Consumer Research Center.

August's level is the lowest the index has sunk since April 1983, just five months after the economy hit its weakest level during the 1982 recession.

The nearly 18-point drop in August was even greater than the fall recorded immediately after the October 1987 stock market crash.

Since the beginning of July, oil prices have jumped about 70 per cent, with most of the rise occurring after the Aug. 2 takeover of Kuwait.

That oil price hike has caused petrol prices to rise significantly and has led many economists to predict that the economy, already burdened by a huge federal debt, a savings and loan crisis and a credit crunch at commercial banks, will slide into recession before the year is out.

The board said about 24 per cent of the respondents believe economic conditions are bad.

Gulf crisis gives hope to Brazil's arms firms

SAO PAULO, Brazil (AP) — The Brazilian arms industry, faced with slumping sales and unpaid bills, is hoping to stave off bankruptcy by cashing in on the anticipated military buildup in the Middle East.

"It's obvious that a crisis such as the one in the Gulf could help our business," said a source at the Engesa armoured tank factory in Sao Paulo. He spoke on condition of anonymity.

Earlier this year, Engesa and Avibras, Brazil's two largest arms makers, requested protection from creditors for unpayable debts of about \$200 million.

Both companies traced the start of their financial woes to bills not paid by Iraq, for years their biggest client. Although arms sales are secret, a much-reported figure put Baghdad's purchases from Brazil at \$3 billion during the last 10 years.

The demand for weapons during the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war in which Brazil sold weapons to both sides — helped turn the South American country into the Third World's largest arms producer and exporter.

Sources close to the arms industry said Iraq still owes Engesa about \$90 million for hundreds of Urutim armoured personnel carriers, Casacavel reconnaissance and anti-aircraft combat vehicles and Jararaca troop carriers.

A source at Avibras, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the Iraqi government owes \$45 million for several Astros II computers and radar-controlled multiple rocket launchers that were delivered more than three years ago.

Iraq also cancelled orders for \$100 million worth of Astros II rocket launchers after they were produced, the Avibras source said.

In addition, other customers in the Middle East, Latin America and Africa sharply reduced or suspended oew arm purchases in the late 1980s.

With exports responsible for some 90 per cent of its revenue, the arms industry is clearly insolvent.

Sources in the arms industry hope sales in the Middle East will pick up when the Gulf crisis ends and clients seek to beef up their military strength.

"The Iraqi offensive helped illustrate just how vulnerable the Saudis are to a similar invasion, and this should help our sales in the medium — and long-term," the Engesa source said.

"There are also excellent sales perspectives in other Middle Eastern nations, which in view of the current situation will want to build up their defences," the source said. He did not offer further details.

Fiat to cut production

ROME (R) — Auto giant Fiat has said it planned to slash car production by more than 10 per cent for the rest of the year because of slumping demand in Italy.

The cutback would force the temporary laying off of 35,000 workers to three week-long periods during which output would be suspended at several plants, company officials said.

Car output would fall to some 625,000 units, down 75,000 from the levels initially planned, they said.

Unions leaders representing the company's 117,000 carworkers told journalists they were prepared to accept the plan provided Fiat gave certain guarantees, including a pledge to maintain existing investment plans.

The programme still has to be approved by the government.

U.S. consortium makes only bid for Israel chemicals firm

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel received only one bid for a controlling stake in Israel Chemicals Ltd (ICL), the first major state-owned firm to be sold under a privatisation programme, a finance ministry official has said.

Zeev Refua, head of the treasury's Government Corporations Authority, said the offer made by the Friday deadline came from a consortium comprising U.S.-based Israeli businessman Arye Genger, Chicago's Pritzker family and Great Lakes Chemical Corp.

The lone bid for 50 per cent stake in the profitable company appeared to be a setback for the privatisation scheme, which has faltered amid political opposition to the sale of state firms to foreign investors.

"I would have been better if we had two or three offers, but we can sell ICL with one offer," Refua told Reuters Saturday night. "If the offer is reasonable, we need only one."

He refused to disclose the terms of the bid, which will be studied by treasury officials. Gov-

ernment and industry officials had estimated the value of the stake at \$350 million.

Refua would not comment on a radio report that British publisher Robert Maxwell, who had expressed an interest in ICL, sought an extension of the deadline to receive more financial data on the firm.

ICL, a holding company for several firms which exploit Israeli natural resources and produce fertilisers, phosphates and bromine, reported a record net profit of \$100.6 million for 1989.

Sales totalled nearly \$1.2 billion, including \$602 million in exports.

Company officials predicted profits would drop by up to 50 per cent this year because of falling prices on the world chemical market.

In addition to an uncertain business environment in the Middle East, political obstacles in Israel may also have helped to make ICL less attractive.

Parliament's finance committee, which must approve any sale, recommended last December that instead of a direct sale of ICL

its shares should be floated on the Tel Aviv stock exchange.

Refua said that under the current plan, Israel would sell a controlling stake but retain a veto on decisions on operations deemed of national interest. The next stage would be to float 24 per cent of ICL shares on the Tel Aviv exchange.

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Saturday, August 25, 1990 Central Bank official rates

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Deutschmark	420.6	423.1	Dutch guilder	375.6	375.8
Swiss franc	516.1	519.2	Swedish crown	114.4	115.1
			Italian lira (for 100)	56.7	57.0
			Belgian franc (for 10)	204.8	206.0

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Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 699238

Adel Imam
in
HANAFI THE GRAND
Performances: 12:30, 3:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45

Amnesty urges punishment for Khmer Rouge in killings

BANGKOK (AP) — Amnesty International said Monday that Khmer Rouge guerrillas who allegedly killed more than 50 people in two attacks on trains in Cambodia should be brought to justice.

Amnesty International said it has called on the three-party Cambodian guerrilla coalition, which includes the Khmer Rouge, to ensure that those responsible for the killings "are removed from their positions and brought to justice."

In a statement, the international human rights group said the victims apparently were singled out because they were employees of the Vietnamese-installed government in Phnom Penh.

"At least 26 people were rounded up and shot dead when a

train was ambushed and stopped in Kompong Trach on July 1 and at least 30 others died in a similar incident in Kompong Chhnang on July 15," the statement said.

At Amnesty International's London headquarters, an official said the information came from sources who have been in contact with people in Cambodia and have confirmed the reports. He said the sources could not be identified.

Western journalists have quoted injured survivors at Phnom Penh hospitals as saying

the guerrillas killed several civilians in the July 15 attack. The survivors said land mines crippled the train and the Khmer Rouge fighters attacked with grenade launchers and machineguns.

At the time, the Khmer Rouge radio said the guerrillas killed 15 soldiers and wounded 15 but made no mention of civilian casualties.

The capital of Kompong Chhnang province, also called Kompong Chhnang, is about 80 kilometres northwest of Phnom Penh. Kompong Trach is about 100 kilometres east of Phnom Penh.

The Communist Khmer Rouge is the strongest group in the guerrilla coalition, which also includes the non-Communist forces

of Prince Norodom Sihanouk and of former Premier Son Sann.

The Khmer Rouge slaughtered hundreds of thousands of people in rural slave labour camps and execution chambers during its 1975-78 rule, when it tried to radically transform peasant society.

Vietnam installed the current Communist government after invading in December 1978.

The Khmer Rouge has become increasingly isolated since the United States in July dropped its support for the coalition's seat at the United Nations because of its inclusion of the Khmer Rouge.

The United States and Amnesty International also have accused the Phnom Penh government of serious human rights abuses.

Police killed blacks without reason, South African judicial report says

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — An official commission has issued a stinging report saying police fired without reason on a protest last March, killing five blacks and wounding 156.

The report recommended a criminal probe.

The inquiry into police conduct at Sebokeng township last March 26 was one of the harshest criticisms of police conduct ever made by an official inquiry.

It said the marchers never threatened the police, and officers fired without orders.

The attorney general should investigate policemen who fired bullets for possible criminal action, said the report, which was released Saturday.

The report was authored by Justice R.J. Goldstone. It gave no indication what charges might be filed if action is taken.

Police "displayed an attitude of unconcern for the lethal nature of their ammunition... this is an

attitude which no police force should tolerate," the report said. It was released at a time when police are under attack from the African National Congress (ANC), church groups and others for alleged bias and improper conduct in black factional fighting around Johannesburg.

Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok, who supervises police, said Saturday that the case would be turned over to the attorney general for investigation. He also said there may be a police investigation.

The ANC said at least 12 people were killed in the shootings at the Sebokeng township south of Johannesburg. The march was to protest local housing conditions, rents and other grievances.

The report said one officer fired and others joined in when a mostly peaceful crowd tried to march to a police station.

"At most, the behaviour of the crowd may have justified the use

of tear gas, and then only after a proper warning to disperse," the report said.

"There appears to be no credible evidence to suggest that the behaviour of the crowd was such that the police could have reasonably been in fear of their lives or personal safety."

"There was a complete lack of discipline in the police line. This was the direct cause of the shooting into the crowd."

A white civilian carrying a pistol joined the police unit and took part in the incident, the report said.

But it said no evidence emerged of criminal action on the part of Capt. Du Plooy, the police commander on the scene, who was sitting on a vehicle at the time. Such a finding would make it hard to prosecute other officers involved.

President F.W. de Klerk ordered the inquiry following public outrage over the shootings.

Sri Lankan troops repulse attack on garrison, kill 26 Tamil rebels

COLOMBO (AP) — Troops defending a military garrison in the north repulsed a Tamil rebel attack and killed at least 26 guerrillas, military officials said Sunday.

In other fighting in the north-east, rebels killed five soldiers Saturday during an ambush on a military patrol near Kantale, 205 kilometres from Colombo, the officials said.

Troops found the bodies of 26 rebels outside the Mullaitivu garrison after the defenders beat back a major onslaught Saturday, said the officials who cannot be identified under briefing rules.

Mullaitivu garrison, 290 kilometres northeast of Col-

ombo, has been under siege since the last 10 weeks, but the troops have held out against repeated mortar attacks.

On Saturday, the government imposed an indefinite curfew in Mullaitivu, Vavunia and Mannar, the predominantly Tamil districts in the north.

Announcing the curfew over state-owned radio, the government warned residents to stay indoors or risk being shot.

Military officials said the curfew would ease military operations against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the rebel militia that has been fighting since 1983 for a separate nation.

The rebels propose to set up

the Tamil homeland in northern and eastern districts where most of Sri Lanka's Tamil minority lives. Tamils make up 18 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people and the Sinhalese account for 75 per cent.

The latest round of secessionist violence flared in June, ending a 13-month ceasefire called in May 1989 to help push peace talks.

Separatists among Tamils accuse the Sinhalese-dominated government of discriminating against the minority community in jobs, education and the use of Sinhala language.

At least 14,000 people have been killed in the 7-year-old separatist war.

Pope ordains 43 Tanzanian priests

DAR-ES-SALAAM (R) — Pope John Paul Sunday ordained 43 new Tanzanian priests at a huge outdoor mass in yet another sign of the Roman Catholic Church's swift growth in Africa.

The Pope blessed the new priests. All Tanzanians, at a colourful mass during which organ music blended with drums.

Women in long African wrap-around dresses embellished with the Pope's picture danced and ululated as he drove through with a crowd of several hundred thousand in an open-top Rolls Royce.

The Pope delighted the crowd as he read parts of his homily in

Swahili from a huge altar platform with a thatched roof built to resemble an African hut.

"This is a great day," said Dar-Es-Salaam Cardinal Lauren Rugambwa, who became the world's first African cardinal in 1961.

There are now 17 African cardinals.

"I never thought to live to see this. It's beautiful. The church has made great gains here as it has in the rest of Africa," said Father Giorgio Battifollo, an Italian who has been working in Tanzania for 36 years.

"This is a great reward for the early missionaries who had so

many difficulties," Battifollo said. There are nearly 79 million Catholics in Africa, some 24 million more than the Pope first visited in 1980. The number is expected to top 100 million by the year 2000, largely due to Africa's soaring population growth.

The Pope launched his seventh tour of Africa where the fatal disease AIDS is taking an increasing grip, repeated his long-standing opposition to so-called "safe sex" programmes.

Shortly after arriving in Tanzania Saturday, the 70-year-old Pontiff took a swipe at campaigns which aim to check the spread of the disease.

Australia's 'great acquirer' dies

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Robert Holmes A Court, the savvy corporate raider once known as Australia's richest man, died Sunday from a massive heart attack, a family spokesman said.

Spokesman Tim Treadgold said the 53-year-old businessman was taken to a hospital early Sunday from his family farm outside Perth, on Australia's west coast, but was dead on arrival.

"It was totally unexpected. As far as I know there had been no indications he had heart trouble," Treadgold said.

Holmes A Court, born in Johannesburg, South Africa, was known as a polite, soft-spoken and shrewd entrepreneur who had been rebuilding his financial empire after losing much of his estimated 1.4 billion-dollar (\$1.15 billion) fortune in the October 1987 stock market crash.

"In many respects he revolutionised the finance world in Australia," Ian Spicer, the chief executive of the Confederation of Australian Industry, said Sunday. "He was a dominant character, a man of significant ability and he will be missed in the business community."

The former attorney made his reputation as a corporate raider, earning the nickname the "great acquirer," while chairman of the Bell Resources Group. He built it into an empire based on rising values in transportation, media, entertainment and building supply concerns.

Holmes A Court amassed a stake of nearly \$1 billion in U.S. oil giant Texaco Inc., had large interests in British Bank Standard Chartered and U.S. steelmaker USX Corp., and made four unsuccessful bids for BHP, Australia's largest company, a steel, oil and mining conglomerate.

His diversified holdings also included two newspapers, a Perth television station and a radio network. Bell's assets at one point had a combined worth of about 6 billion dollars (\$4.9 billion).

But the crash hit Holmes A Court hard, costing him an estimated \$1 billion when Merrill Lynch and Co. withdrew as lead manager of a major bond issue that Bell would have used to reduce its interest bill.

Investor's confidence was shaken, Holmes A Court was

forced to sell off many of his assets, including about half of his controlling stake in Bell Resources Group.

While out, Holmes A Court was not out. He chose to forego the public corporate scene and concentrate on his Perth-based private flagship company, Heynesbury Holdings Ltd.

In May 1989, he became Australia's largest landowner when he bought control of the country's largest cattle ranch, Sherwin Pastoral. The company leases about 1 per cent of Australia, an area about the size of England and Wales.

Australian Business magazine reported that his personal wealth swelled by 66 per cent last year to 500 million dollars (\$410 million), calling it a "tribute to his ability to salvage a personal fortune from a public debacle."

He also owned stables of racehorses, an extensive art collection and several antique cars.

Holmes A Court is survived by his wife, Janet, three sons and one daughter.

Moscow considers sweeping military reforms

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Saturday considered major reforms to its armed forces over the next 10 years, including reducing military service and providing better living conditions for servicemen and their families.

The Soviet News Agency TASS said the Presidential Defence Council, chaired by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, also discussed measures to accompany the withdrawal of troops from Eastern Europe and Mongolia.

"The council pointed to the need to change the armed forces consistently and substantially in keeping with the new defence doctrine while reducing their numbers," TASS said.

Moscow is pulling thousands of troops out of Eastern Europe following the collapse of Communist governments there and agreements with the United States on arms reduction. Many officers returning home have had trouble finding accommodation. The army has lost its once-dominant role in Soviet society and the government, preoccupied with averting an economic collapse, has cut its budget.

Saturday's meeting also discussed improvements in organisation to ensure supplies of modern arms and equipment.

TASS said the changes would take into account the conversion of the defence industry to meet civilian needs.

Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov and the commanders-in-chief of the armed forces also delivered reports calling for better military training and more involvement by specialists on a contract basis.

The proposals will be submitted to the Supreme Soviet (parliament), which resumes business after a summer break on Sept. 10.

The Soviet army, some five million strong, has faced growing resistance to the twice-yearly draft from the rebellious Baltic republics and other parts of the country where nationalist sentiment runs high.

There has also been talk of forming a partly professional army and navy, but the TASS account of the meeting did not mention this.

In June, Yazov said the military planned for a third off all the armed forces eventually to be professional, with the rest conscripted for two to three years.

The first stage of reform would come in 1991, when naval recruits would have the choice of serving two years, like the army, instead of the usual three, or serving three years with increased pay, he said.

Former Austrian chancellor, 2 aides to be indicted for abuse of office

VIENNA, Austria (AP) — Former Socialist Chancellor Fred Sinowatz and two other former ministers will be indicted for abuse of office on suspicion of failing to stop illegal arms shipments to Iran in 1985, Justice Minister Edmund Foregger has said.

Foregger confirmed that former Interior Minister Karl Blecha and former Foreign Minister Leopold Graf, both senior members of the Socialist Party, will also be charged.

The minister said he had approved of the proposal by the prosecutors probing the case to charge the three men because there was suspicion of exporting weapons to a warring country in contravention of an export ban, and the politicians involved had failed to halt the shipments.

Bhutto remains popular despite corruption charges

ISLAMABAD (R) — Legal procedures which could prevent Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto from regaining power at the polls are expected to begin this week, but the ousted premier has shown she retains substantial popular support.

The caretaker government announced at the weekend that it plans to charge Bhutto with three or four counts of corruption or abuse of power.

Interior Minister Zahid Sarfraz told reporters that charges backed by "solid proof" were being finalised and would be referred to one-judge special courts within a few days.

If convicted, Bhutto could face disqualification from the Oct. 24 national elections and a possible jail term.

"It seems they do not want to take any chances," commentator Mushahid Hussain said. "It is not just psychological pressure on her. They do not want her to take part in the elections."

President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed Bhutto on Aug. 6, accusing her of massive abuse of power and of presiding over a government riddled with corruption and nepotism.

Bhutto blamed the armed forces for being behind the "constitutional coup d'etat" and in the last 10 days embarked on a campaign swing through the country that demonstrated clearly that she retains personal support.

In the Northwest Frontier capital Peshawar and at several other stops, Bhutto's fellow leaders of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) have been abused and in some cases roughed up.

But Bhutto has been greeted by large crowds at each stop with

chants of "Benazir Bhasoor" — Benazir is innocent.

"It seems that her personal political appeal is intact but not that of her colleagues," Hussain said. "The PPP's core constituency of 35-40 per cent of the electorate is intact."

Since Bhutto's ouster, the caretaker Premier Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and an alliance of anti-Bhutto forces have managed to win the support of senior PPP figures in the troubled southern province of Sind — Bhutto's home province — but have had little success elsewhere.

Rifts within Jatoi's alliance have been papered over and its constituent parties have agreed to ensure a single candidate faces the PPP in each seat on Oct. 24.

But Bhutto's political isolation ended last week when the small Tehrik-e-Istiqal Party agreed an electoral alliance, and political sources say the PPP could attract another four or five small groups.

Disqualification would not stop Bhutto from campaigning for her party, but whether the special courts would allow her to campaign remains to be seen.

The 11 special courts set up by Ishaq Khan are expected to hand down verdicts within 15 days of cases being referred to them, but Bhutto has said neither she nor other PPP members would submit to them.

Originally the courts were intended only for people holding public office and were restricted to events since Bhutto took office in December 1988.

But a recent presidential decree allowed special trials of non-politicians, which could include Bhutto's businessman husband Asif Ali Zardari.

Chinese dissident urges opposition to organise

PARIS (AP) — Fang Lizhi, the dissident Chinese astrophysicist who spent more than a year holed up in the U.S. embassy in Peking, Saturday urged Chinese people living overseas to organise into a cohesive opposition force.

"Today, it is no longer enough to take part in dissidence. It is necessary to organise an opposition," Fang said at a rally at La Defense, the skyscraper district west of Paris.

Fang, 54, left China on June 25 after 13 months in hiding with his wife, Li Shuxian, at the Peking residence of U.S. Ambassador James Lilley. The couple now lives in Britain where Fang is a researcher at Cambridge University.

An outspoken dissident, Fang was a rallying point for many of the students who protested for democratic reforms last May and June in Peking's Tiananmen Square.

While Fang stayed away from the protest that led to the Chinese army's bloody crackdown that

killed hundreds and perhaps thousands, a warrant was issued for his arrest and he fled to the American embassy.

At the rally, he said it was not easy to contribute toward China's future from outside the country, and that an opposition movement abroad would be less effective than one inside China.

The French capital is the headquarters for the Federation for a Democratic China, a worldwide Chinese dissident organisation with major branches in Britain, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the United States.

The federation energetically pursued dissident activities in the month following the bloodshed in Peking. It recently has faltered, largely because of limited financial support and lack of international interest in the wake of upheavals in Eastern Europe and the crisis in the Middle East.

Fang said he and his wife spent 386 days hiding in the embassy compound in a small, windowless room.

Book shows way to get along with in-laws

CHICAGO (AP) — Want to get along with your in-laws? Learn how and when to say no, an author says. "You don't have to like (your in-laws), said Leah Averick, a social worker and author of How In-Laws Relate: It's All Relative. "But you can be very polite to them. Remember, these are important people to your husband or wife."

Averick writes about how to make a good first impression, how to decide what to call in-laws and how to get along with grandparents, brothers and sisters. The book also discusses several tension points in in-law relations, including wedding, holidays, births and gift-giving occasions. In weddings, for instance, she said parents and other relatives often try to play too large a role selecting the apparel, planning the reception or preparing the guest list. Her advice: The marrying couple should learn how to say "no" to in-law help in a nice way.

People who follow doctors' orders are more likely to live

LONDON (AP) — People who take their pills, even if they are sugar pills, are more likely to live than those who do not follow the doctor's orders, according to a study in a British medical journal. Dr. Ralph Horwitz of the Yale University School of Medicine, author of the Lancet study, said researchers cannot explain why people who take their medicine, even placebos, are more likely to live. "We need a better measure of the social and psychological features to explain why it is," he said. Horwitz said his team of researchers analysed a 1978 test on beta blockers, often given after a heart attack to reduce the likelihood of further damage. Half of the study's participants were given the drug and the other half were given placebos. Horwitz's analysis of the study found that those who took their medicine — placebo or drug — had a higher survival rate than those who did not.

Court upholds drunken driving arrest

HELENA, Montana (AP) — The state supreme court of Montana has upheld the drunken driving arrest of a man who was stopped by police while pushing his disabled motorcycle down a street. Although Ronald D. Turner was not driving the motorcycle and his engine was not operating, he was in control of the vehicle and subject to the law requiring motorists to submit to a breath test, the court said in its unanimous ruling last week. Turner, 36, was on his way home from a nearby bar last Sept. 19, and was pushing a motorcycle with a broken clutch when he was arrested. He did not get on the vehicle or start the engine, but did turn on the headlight, the court said.

U.S. college town considers banning 'fighting words'

AMHERST, Massachusetts (AP) — Militant attitudes may be the few fashion for many Americans, but townfolk are chewing over a proposal to muzzle "fighting words" on the streets of Amherst. The proposal, designed to silence racial slurs, is part of a long line of efforts to promote harmony in a college town that has voted against every U.S. war since 1812. It is already drawing fire from civil rights advocates. "This is a caring community. It's a community of people who really have some deep and genuine humane values," said Paul Rogers, a member of the Citizens Review Committee, which has written a first draft of the bylaw. Rogers said he's not sure whether the proposal will succeed. It was inspired by an incident last May in which a white youth reportedly shouted racial slurs and knocked a black teenager down. In Amherst, a town of about 34,000 where residents have marched for peace and against war scores of times, debating constitutional rights is nothing new. In keeping with tradition, a group of residents this month marched to the town common to protest U.S. military buildup in Saudi Arabia and suggest that President Bush turn to alternate methods to resolve the invasion of Kuwait. The proposal doesn't give a list of "fighting words." It defines them as those that "by their very utterance inflict injury upon the person or group of persons to whom they are directed or which tend to incite an immediate breach of peace."